

EISENHOWER BIRTHPLACE

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Denison, Texas

Pre-Visit Guide: Lesson 2

High School

Overview: Patriotism on the Local Home Front

In this extension to Pre-Visit Lesson 1, students will investigate, compare, and contrast a 1942 edition and 1946 edition of the *Denison Press* newspaper. As a class, students will analyze and sequence photographs of Eisenhower's visit to Denison in 1946.

U.S. History TEKS

(7) History. The student understands the domestic and international impact of U.S. participation in World War II. The student is expected to:

- (C) analyze the function of the U.S. Office of War Information;
- (G) explain the Home Front and how American patriotism inspired exceptional actions by citizens and military personnel, including high levels of military enlistment; volunteerism; the purchase of war bonds; Victory Gardens.

(17) Economics. The student understands the economic effects of World War II and the Cold War. The student is expected to:

- (A) describe the economic effects of World War II on the Home Front such as the end of the Great Depression, rationing, and increased opportunity for women and minority employment.

(29) Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of valid sources, including electronic technology. The student is expected to:

- (A) use a variety of both primary and secondary valid sources to acquire information and to analyze and answer historical questions;
- (B) analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing and contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations, making predictions, drawing inferences, and drawing conclusions;
- (D) use the process of historical inquiry to research, interpret, and use multiple types of sources of evidence;
- (H) use appropriate skills to analyze and interpret social studies information such as maps, graphs, presentations, speeches, lectures, and political cartoons.

(30) Social studies skills. The student communicates in written, oral, and visual forms. The student is expected to:

- (A) create written, oral, and visual presentations of social studies information.

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Materials

- Primary source newspaper article images for display/distribution
- Graphic organizer
- Additional newspapers also available on Portal to Texas History at <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph328522/> and <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph328767/>.

Historical Context

During World War II, the town of Denison, through the effort of prominent local citizens like Jennie Jackson, proudly confirmed and proclaimed its status as the birthplace of Dwight D. Eisenhower. On June 25, 1942, Major General Eisenhower was appointed by President Roosevelt as the Supreme Allied Commander of European troops. From 1942 to 1944, Jennie Jackson corresponded with Eisenhower and his relatives about his birthplace to confirm her memory of the Eisenhower family who had lived across the street from her in 1890.

Primary Source Activity: A Denisonian Commander Comes Home

40 minutes

Divide the class into pairs/small groups. Display/distribute the *Denison Press* 1942 and 1946 articles. Distribute the **activity worksheet**. Share responses when completed.

1942 Articles Answer Key:

What is the main idea of the “Denisonian Commands” article?

[Provides readers information on Eisenhower’s recent appointment by Roosevelt as Supreme Commander of Allied forces in Europe. It also details his military experience and, at multiple points, emphasizes his Texas/Denison connection.]

How does Texas Power and Light play on emotions to encourage war support?

[“Old lady” has only one way to support the war effort, by investing in electric company that provides energy for the war machine that protects her grandsons.]

What information does the “To Our Customers” letter give?

[War Department has amended an order and customers are allowed to buy heating equipment.]

What information does the U.S. Marine graphic image give?

[Major Henry Leonard was the first to hold the military attaché position; I.D. tags worn around the neck include name, fingerprints, blood type; special assault forces use rubber landing boats]

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1946 Articles Answer Key:

What is the main idea of the “General Ike” article?

[Denison has prepared a military parade, publicized address, and barbecue to celebrate and honor General Eisenhower’s first visit back to the town of his birth.]

In 1946, what plan did Denison come up with to address a housing shortage?

[Use the lumber from the barracks near Denison that previously housed German war prisoners.]

What businesses placed ads to welcome Eisenhower back to Denison? What is significant about the size?

[The State National Bank, Texas Power & Light Co., La Mode Store. La Mode ad is smaller because larger ads are more expensive.]

What improvements were made to Fair Park in 1946?

[Answers will vary but may include year-round entertainment, first opening of the midway since 1941, new entrance arch featuring neon, new lighting, new rides.]

Primary Source Activity: Eisenhower Day Celebration in Images

15 minutes

Distribute/display the **Eisenhower Celebration Day images** and the **revised program** from William Harwell of the Denison Chamber of Commerce to Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn. Tell students to use the resources to sequence the photographs chronologically.

Answer Key:



Perrin Field arrival



Big Texas Breakfast



Parade on Main



Review stand



Radio broadcast

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Assessment

Evaluate student participation in class discussion and activity organizers for accuracy and understanding.

ELA/Art Extension: Preservation Propaganda

Have students create a propaganda poster or an advertisement for the current *Denison Press* to recruit local effort for the preservation of Eisenhower's Birthplace. Needs might include fundraising or investment for preservation and maintenance, restoration of surrounding neighborhood structures or railways, or volunteer support for house tours and events.

Additional Resources

Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum – National Archives

<https://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/>

Eisenhower National Historic Site (U.S. National Park Service)

<https://www.nps.gov/Eise/>

America's Story from America's Library by the Library of Congress

http://www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/eisenhower/aa_eisenhower_subj.html

The National World War II Museum-New Orleans

<http://www.nationalww2museum.org/>

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Primary Source Newspaper Activity: A Denisonian Commander Comes Home

Read the 1942 and 1946 articles from the *Denison Press* to answer the following questions.

June 26, 1942 Articles

- What is the main idea of the “Denisonian Commands” article?
- How does Texas Power and Light play on emotions to encourage war support?
- What information does the “To Our Customers” letter give?
- What information does the U.S. Marine graphic image give?

April 19, 1946 Articles

- What is the main idea of the “General Ike” article?
- In 1946, what plan did Denison come up with to address a housing shortage?
- What two companies placed major ads to welcome Eisenhower back to Denison?
- What improvements were made to Fair Park in 1946?

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Newspaper Activity Image: June 26, 1942, part 1

DENISONIAN COMMANDS UNITED

Major General Eisenhower Was Formerly Assistant Chief Of Staff At Washington

WASHINGTON, June 26—A fighting Texan was appointed Thursday to the army's job of the hour—command of the newly established European theatre of operations for United States forces, on which the eyes of the world are focused in expectancy of a possible second front and the showdown struggles of the war.

The appointee was Major Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, until this week assistant chief of staff in charge of operations division. Gen. Eisenhower, 51, a specialist in armored force tactics and one-time right-hand man of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, is a native of Denison, Texas.

Gen. Eisenhower arrived Thursday in London, where he will

maintain his headquarters. Fresh from conferences with President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Lord Mountbatten, chief of British commandos, Eisenhower plunged at once into the job of co-ordinating his army with Britain's. He is expected to meet soon with Gen. Sir Alan Brooke, British chief of general staff.

One British staff officer commented recently that "the high state of American training, equipment and morale is such that British and American armies will be able to take the field for attack earlier than had been anticipated."

Is Brilliant Strategist.

Regarded as one of the army's most brilliant strategists, Eisenhower's rise has been meteoric

since the United States entered the war—only nine months ago he was a colonel. He won wide recognition last year for skillful handling of troops on a large scale while directing the third field army in maneuvers in the Louisiana-Texas war games.

Assignment of Eisenhower, whose duty in Washington for months has been the preparation of plans for offensive and defensive action by United States forces on all fronts, to command the new theater of operations was believed here to indicate strongly an early invasion of the continent. It appeared that the officer who drew the plans was now being given the principal job in putting them into execution.

Eisenhower's post in Europe may soon be comparable to that held by Gen. John J. Pershing in

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Newspaper Activity Image: June 26, 1942, part 2 of "Denisonian Commands"

Coincidental with the war department's announcement of the European theatre and the assignment of the Texan to command it, two other Texans were in conference at the White House to receive from President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill a review of the war situation. They were House Speaker Sam Rayburn of Bonham and Senator Tom Connally of Marlin, who attended the conference along with other congressional leaders.

Speaker Rayburn told reporters as the delegation left the executive offices, "We came away feeling very hopeful." The question of a second front in Europe was discussed, Rayburn said.

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Newspaper Activity Image: June 26, 1942

Chairman Paul V. McNULT was requested June 9 in a resolution adopted by the Commission's labor-management policy committee. The resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Commission held at the Denison Hotel, Denison, Texas, June 9, 1942. The resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Commission held at the Denison Hotel, Denison, Texas, June 9, 1942. The resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Commission held at the Denison Hotel, Denison, Texas, June 9, 1942.

Be Wise - Try Alka-Seltzer

"MY SAVINGS ARE GIVING HIM A BETTER CHANCE TO COME BACK Alive!"

I'm just an old lady, 61 years old, but I can't do much about this war, except knit. But I have one grandson in the army, and two more who will be there soon. And I'm proud to know that my savings invested in power and light company stocks are helping to give my boys, and others, a better chance to come back alive! It's a comfort to me to know that the industry my savings helped build is able to supply all the power needed to give our boys the best possible protection in their fight for victory!

This grandmother is one of the two million citizens, people from every walk of life, who are stockholders in America's privately operated electric power companies. Their savings, combined with the funds of insurance companies, and the endowment funds of institutions of every kind, made possible the building of the electric power plants and nation-wide web of power lines that produce and transmit 7-8 of America's electric power...more power than is produced in Germany, Italy and Japan combined.

In Texas, the Texas Power & Light Company is "all out" for victory...supplying the present power needs for the war effort in the area it serves...and planning for the increased needs of tomorrow!

*The above quotation is from a letter from a stockholder of Texas Power & Light Company. Name will be furnished on request.

HELP WIN the WAR! BUY UNITED STATES VICTORY BONDS and STAMPS

TEXAS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

The following information pertaining to the offering for sale of gas appliances is subject to change without notice.

To Our Customers:

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY the Government Order freezing all types of gas heating equipment is amended. Floor Furnaces, Gaseous Radiators, Circulators NOW may be sold and installed for use in rooms which do not already have some type of heating equipment.

In calling your attention to this recent ruling which permits us to make gas appliances available to our customers NOW, we wish to point out that this present order is subject to change by the War Production Board at any time deemed necessary.

SPECIAL NOTICE

There are some types of gas heating equipment not mentioned above such as central furnaces, etc., that are still available without restriction. Likewise, under certain conditions, you are permitted to purchase and install gas ranges and gas water heaters. We will be pleased to advise and assist you with complete information and details.

Community Natural Gas Co.

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Newspaper Activity Image: June 26, 1942



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Newspaper Activity Image: April 19, 1946, part 1

Gen. "Ike" Honor Man Of Denison

The colorful banners on Denison's streets today depicting the red, white and blue of the American flag which today is afloat rather than the flag of the enemy, because our boys again crossed the seas and matched their valour with the prowess of the enemy, are fitting of the spirit of Denison as it gladly welcomes the arrival here Saturday of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower who led the forces of the Allies to a glorious victory. The General comes to view for the first time since he was a baby, the old home where he was born and to bring a message to the thousands who will be honoring, not only the General, but also the G.I. boys who helped bring about the victory.

The special barbecue in Munson stadium is set for the boys as a gesture of good feeling on the part of all of us, as much as it is a recognition of the presence of the General himself.

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Newspaper Activity Image: April 19, 1946, part 2 of "Gen. Ike"

Denison has been preparing for the occasion for several weeks and much time has been taken from busy men who have laid aside business of their own for the proper setting of the celebration. These men have worked unhonored and unsung in most cases that the event might go off in every proper way so that those who come within our gates may go away feeling the praise of the city as a city to be depended upon to match occasions which call for caring for visitors.

A Gigantic Parade

Aside from the visit of the General to his birthplace and his address at Forest Park the parade which is slated to be a gigantic thing, comes in for special mention. After the arrival of the General at Perrin Field by plane, who will be accompanied by his wife and also Congressman Sam Rayburn, the party will be met by Mayor W. L. Ashburn at the field to be directed immediately to Denison. They will be joined at Main street where Armstrong enters and the procession will move east on Main.

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Newspaper Activity Image: April 19, 1946

Barracks For War Prisoner to Serve Housing Shortage

Plans were completed this week whereby the lumber in the barracks which served to house the German war prisoners near Denison, will be transformed into making homes to solve some of the housing shortage here. it was announced by Mayor Will Ashburn. Mr. Ashburn, accompanied by W. T. Loomis were in Ft. Worth this week to attend to the matter of getting the transfer made.

One-family units are possible in the transformation process, it is stated. Since such transfers can only be made through a city or similar artificial citizens, the step was taken through city officials for the deal. As soon as application papers can be passed on the government, the result of the effort to transform the housing to meet the shortage here will be known.

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Newspaper Activity Image: April 19, 1946

Thomason Will Pass Honors to Brother Knight

In the early morning hours of the 19th, the funeral of the late William H. Thomason, a Denison native, was held at the residence of a son, Mr. Robert Thomason, 1015 S. 10th St. The funeral was held at the residence of Mr. Robert Thomason, 1015 S. 10th St. The funeral was held at the residence of Mr. Robert Thomason, 1015 S. 10th St.

American Legion Spring Carnival

GREATER UNITED SHOWS

DENISON

Shirard Show Lot
on Highway 75, South

Nights **6** Nights

Starting Monday, Apr. 22

New Shows
Thrilling Scenes
Plenty of Fun

Bring Your Families

A Victor Returns Home



We take off our hats to you
Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower

May your visit be pleasant
Come again soon
We are honored to have you

LaMode Store

LADIES, MEN'S and CHILDREN'S WEAR
LADIES and CHILDREN'S SHOES
224 West Main Phone 3117

DENISON'S FIRST CITIZEN

GEN. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

WELCOME BACK HOME



Eisenhower Day in Denison
Saturday, April 20



Mammoth Parade Barbecue for G. I.'s
Music Displays

The State National Bank

Capital Resources Over \$100,000
Member Federal Reserve System

WELCOME

GENERAL EISENHOWER

WE join the people of Denison and Texas in extending a hearty welcome to General Eisenhower on his visit to Denison, the place of his birth

TEXAS POWER & LIGHT CO.

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Newspaper Activity Image: April 19, 1946

Dallas Fair Park Midway Dated For Opening May 4

Dallas' Fair Park Midway, with an investment of more than a half million dollars in buildings and equipment, will be opened to Central Texas May 4. R. L. Thornton, president of the State Fair of Texas, announced this week. This layout, now established in new permanent homes on Midway Avenue, will afford visitors to Dallas one of the largest and most complete amusement parks in the Southwest.

The new Midway, featuring year-round entertainment, will be offered as State Fair officials fire the opening gun for the first exposition since 1941. Fair dates this year have been set for Oct. 5 to 20.

Entrance to the amusement park, which will be the Fair's Midway, will be under a dramatic appearing arch. Letters over the entrance will be two feet high, of porcelain edged with neon.

The Midway will be well lighted with new underground lines supplying the current.

A bevy of new rides will be offered for thrill-seekers attending the amusement park. A streamlined merry-go-round roller rink, train, octopus, whip and other rides will line the half-mile long loop. Two other new additions will be the Bozo and the Rapids ride, imported from the famous Coney Island Park at Jamestown, N. Y.

The new carnival grounds will stretch from the Cotton Bowl Restaurant on Midway to the Pennsylvania Avenue gate to Fair Park.

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Denison, Texas

Activity Image: Eisenhower Celebration Day, April 20, 1946

REVISED PROGRAM

EISENHOWER DAY CELEBRATION

DENISON, TEXAS

APRIL 20, 1946

11:30 A.M. - General Eisenhower, Speaker Sam Rayburn and party arrive at Perrin Field. Reception by Commanding Officer of Perrin Field and limited local group.

(General Eisenhower inspection of birthplace.)

12:30 Noon - General Eisenhower and Speaker Rayburn proceed to Armstrong Avenue and Main Street to head parade down Main Street and thence to Forest Park. General Eisenhower and Speaker Rayburn dismount at Reviewing Stand where visiting military and honor guests already assembled. General Eisenhower reviews parade.

1:30 P.M. - (Radio Broadcast). Speaking program - Speaker Sam Rayburn to present General Eisenhower.

Address - General Eisenhower.

2:00 P.M. - Barbecue to which all World War II Veterans, visiting military and honor guests be the guests of the citizenship of Denison. We anticipate approximately 6,000 guests.

3:00 P.M. - General Eisenhower and party to return to Eisenhower Home for press conference and opportunity for newreel cameramen and still cameramen to get desired pictures.

5:30 P.M. - General Eisenhower leaves Perrin Field for Texas A. & M. College. (Leaving at this hour, there is ample flying time with margin of thirty minutes between probable time of arrival at A. & M. and sundown).

*Between
4:30
and
5:00*

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Activity Image: Eisenhower Celebration Day, April 20, 1946



April 20, 1946 - Gen. Dwight Eisenhower and Mr. Rayburn at Denison, Texas.

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